

ultimate product is not going to function very well. So I think those are the reasons that this won't be like past reports.

Congressional Support

Q. Do Members of Congress know about this yet, Mr. President, and what are they telling you back when you tell them about this proposal?

The Vice President. Let me respond to that. We're getting a lot of tremendous support from the Congress. Let me point out that some of the pioneers in this effort have been in the Congress. The chairmen and ranking members of the two principal committees on how the Government operates are all very supportive.

There will be some opposition. You know that, and we couldn't change what needs to be changed without running into opposition. But the ground has shifted. The world has changed. The American people are demanding that we change the way the Federal Government operates. It doesn't work well now. It costs too much money; it performs very poorly. We want to make it work better and cost less by implementing the recommendations of this report. We fully intend to do that.

Q. What about—get Congress to go along with the biennial budget? Will you be able to get Congress to go along with the biennial budget?

The President. I hope so. Well, in times past, over a majority of the Congress has supported a biennial budget. It can't be very satisfying for them to have to spend all their time doing that when they can spend more time evaluating how these programs work.

Labor Support

Q. What about the unions, Mr. President?

The Vice President. They've been very supportive. They've been very supportive. All three of the principal ones have endorsed it.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:20 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. The exchange portion of this item could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on Senate Action Confirming Joycelyn Elders as Surgeon General

September 7, 1993

I am extremely pleased and gratified by the Senate's action today in confirming Dr. Joycelyn Elders as the Nation's next Surgeon General. Dr. Elders has consistently demonstrated a high level of intellect, courage, and wisdom in dealing with the wide range of health and social problems facing our country. Her dedication to improving the lives of all Americans, especially the children of America, won her the strong backing of a bipartisan majority of the Senate. I look forward to working with her in confronting the pressing issues facing the public health of our Nation.

I am especially grateful to Senator Kennedy for his steady leadership during the Labor and Human Resources Committee's consideration of Dr. Elders' nomination. Senator Kennedy's dedication to this nominee was extraordinary.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Discussions With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

September 7, 1993

President Clinton spoke by phone today with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia for about 40 minutes to discuss several bilateral and foreign policy issues.

President Clinton reiterated strong U.S. support for Russian political and market reform and the work of President Yeltsin and the Russian Government to keep those reforms on track. They discussed the status of existing and prospective U.S. assistance for the reform process.

The President agreed that last week's meeting in Washington of the Joint Commission on Energy and Space, led by Vice President Gore and Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, was a great success. They also agreed on the need for further progress,

particularly on a number of U.S. private sector energy investment projects.

Turning to the Middle East, the Presidents welcomed the historic progress in negotiations between Israel and the PLO in recent weeks and pledged to work together to promote peace in the Middle East region.

On other foreign policy issues, President Yeltsin briefed the President on his recent trip to Ukraine. President Clinton welcomed the progress achieved by President Yeltsin and President Kravchuk, particularly regarding the nuclear weapons now deployed in Ukraine. The President affirmed U.S. interest in working with both parties to assist in the resolution of outstanding issues.

The President congratulated President Yeltsin on the withdrawal of Russian forces from Lithuania last week and reaffirmed U.S. support for a rapid and complete withdrawal of forces from Latvia and Estonia. The two leaders also discussed their support for the ongoing effort to promote peace in Bosnia.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Discussions With Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany
September 7, 1993

President Clinton spoke by phone today with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany for about 40 minutes.

The two leaders discussed a number of bilateral and foreign affairs issues. On the Generalized Agreement for Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the two leaders agreed on the need for successful conclusion of the Uruguay round by the end of 1993 and undertook to remain in contact throughout the autumn for that purpose.

President Clinton and Chancellor Kohl discussed developments in the Middle East, both indicating their deep satisfaction over the prospects for historic breakthroughs in ongoing talks. They reviewed progress in the political and economic reform process in Russia and discussed their efforts to assist that process. They also agreed on the need to cooperate on issues related to the former Yugoslavia.

Announcement of White House Office Appointments

September 7, 1993

White House Chief of Staff Mack McLarty today announced the appointment of Joe Velasquez as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs and Keith Mason as Deputy Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Velasquez is deputy to Political Affairs Director Joan Baggett, and Mr. Mason is deputy to Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Marcia Hale. The President praised the new members of his team. "Joe Velasquez understands the importance of increasing voters' involvement in the political process, and I am confident he will ensure Americans of all concerns have a voice in our Government," the President said.

"From his experiences in Georgia, Keith Mason knows firsthand the needs and concerns of State and local governments today. I know that he will work hard to forge strong bonds between Washington and our States and cities so that we can all work together in the best interest of the American people," the President said.

NOTE: Biographies of the appointees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Armenia-United States Investment Treaty

September 7, 1993

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Republic of Armenia Concerning the Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investment, signed at Washington on September 23, 1992. Also transmitted for the information of the Senate